REMARKS

I.   STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-41 are currently pending. Of these, claims 1-7 are allowed, and claims 8-41 are "objected to".

Please note that none of the claims are amended herein.

II.   Declaration

The filed Declaration asserts:

With respect to broadening the claims, an error being relied upon as the basis for the reissue is that issued independent claims 1 and 7 recite an "error processing means", but that it would be desirable to include additional independent claims which do not recite an "error processing means".

However, item 2 on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action indicates:

The statement of error is insufficient. It is stated that it would be desirable to include independent claims which do not recite "error processing means." However, original claims 4 and 6 already do not recite "error processing means."

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has misinterpreted the error as set forth in the Declaration. More specifically, it is recognized that original independent claims 4 and 6 do not recite "error processing means". However, the Declaration simply indicates that that it would be desirable to include "additional" independent claims to the application which do not recite "error processing means". Here, "additional" indicates in addition to the other original independent claims (such as original independent claims 4 and 6) that already do not recite "error processing means". It is respectfully submitted that this understanding of the error as set forth in the Declaration would be understood when considering the Declaration and the original claims together.

However, to address any concerns of the Examiner, a new Reissue Declaration is submitted herewith.

III.   DRAWINGS

Corrected FIGS. 2 and 7 are provided herewith, as required by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action.

IV.   SUPPORT FOR THE NEW CLAIMS

The Office Action indicates that support must be shown in the application for all the functions of all the new claims.

Generally, support for the new claims is found, for example, in FIGS. 1 and 2, and the disclosure on page 5, line 6, though page 12, line 4, of the specification. However, more detailed support for each new claim is indicated below.

8. An apparatus comprising:

digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via a communication medium (see, for example, switchover switch 57 in FIG. 2 and the disclosure on page 7, lines 14-27, of the specification);

drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a storage medium (see, for example, modulator device 59 and modulator device 60 in FIG. 2);

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data (see, for example, software management means 55 in FIG. 1 and software management section 3 in FIG. 2);

information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital information receiving means, digital information read by said drive means, and software data decoded by the software management means, into at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, information conversion section 56 in FIG. 1, and elements 66, 67a, 67b, 68a, 68b, 70 and 71 in FIG. 2);

switch means for switching a one-way connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, said drive means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said software management means, and said drive means and said software management means (see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2); and

outputting means, connected to said information converting means, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2).

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said software management means

comprises:

deciphering means (see, for example, decoding means 7 in FIG. 1, and DES 7 in FIG. 2)

for deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiving means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting, and

for deciphering digital information read by said drive means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said software management means further comprises:

billing managing means (see, for example, management means 3 in FIG. 1, and software management section 3 and monetary charges table 8 in FIG. 2)

for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said digital information receiving means, and

for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive means.

11. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said information converting means comprises:

extension means (see, for example, extension sections 67a, 67b in FIG. 2, and page 16, lines 2-13)

for extending digital information received by said digital information receiving means when said digital information is compressed; and

for extending said digital information read by said drive means when said digital information is compressed.

12. An apparatus comprising:

a digital information receiver receiving digital information provided via a communication medium (see, for example, switchover switch 57 in FIG. 2 and the disclosure on page 7, lines 14-27, of the specification);

a drive device reading digital information from, and writing information to, a storage

medium (see, for example, modulator device 59 and modulator device 60 in FIG. 2);

a software manager decoding encrypted software data and managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data (see, for example, software management means 55 in FIG. 1 and software management section 3 in FIG. 2);

a converter converting digital information received by said digital information receiver, digital information read by said drive device, and software data decoded by the software manager, into at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, information conversion section 56 in FIG. 1, and elements 66, 67a, 67b, 68a, 68b, 70 and 71 in FIG. 2);

a switch switching a one-way connection between said digital information receiver and said converter, between said digital information receiver and said drive device, between said drive device and said converter, between said digital information receiver and said software manager, and between said drive device and said software manager (see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2); and

an output device, connected to said converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2).

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said software manager comprises:

a deciphering device (see, for example, decoding means 7 in FIG. 1, and DES 7 in FIG. 2)

deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiver when the digital information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said converter, and

deciphering digital information read by said drive device when the digital information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said converter.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said software manager further comprises:

a billing manager (see, for example, management means 3 in FIG. 1, and software management section 3 and monetary charges table 8 in FIG. 2)

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said digital information receiver, and

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive device.

15. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said converter comprises:

an extender (see, for example, extension sections 67a, 67b in FIG. 2, and page 16, lines 2-13)

extending digital information received by said digital information receiver when said digital information is compressed, and

extending said digital information read by said drive device when said digital information is compressed.

16. An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing digital data (see, for example, the output line from communications 51 in FIGS. 1 and 2);

a storage medium storing digital data (see, for example, medium 52 in FIG. 1, and disk 58 and/or CD drive 52 in FIG. 2);

a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, information conversion section 56 in FIG. 1, and elements 66, 67a, 67b, 68a, 68b, 70 and 71 in FIG. 2);

a software manager decoding encrypted software data and managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data, the decoded software data being provided to the converter as digital data to be converted (see, for example, software management means 55 in FIG. 1 and software management section 3 in FIG. 2);

a switch (see, for example, the various switch positions provided by input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2) having

a first switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a second switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data,

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a third switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium,

a fourth switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager so that the software manager decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and the converter converts the decoded software data into at least one of visible and audible data, and so that the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data, and

a fifth switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to the software manager so that the software manager decodes encrypted software data of the read digital data and the converter converts the decoded software data into at least one of visible and audible data, and so that the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

an output device, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2).

17. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the software manager comprises:

a deciphering device (see, for example, decoding means 7 in FIG. 1, and DES 7 in FIG. 2) which,

when the switch is in the first switch position and the digital data provided by the communication path is ciphered, deciphers the digital data before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data, and,

when the switch is in the second position and the digital data read from the storage medium is ciphered, deciphers the digital data read from the storage medium before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data.

18. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the software manager comprises:

a billing manager (see, for example, management means 3 in FIG. 1, and software management section 3 and monetary charges table 8 in FIG. 2) managing billing based on a utilization of digital data provided by the communication path, and managing billing based on a utilization of digital data read from the storage medium.

19. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the converter comprises:

an extender (see, for example, extension sections 67a, 67b in FIG. 2, and page 16, lines 2-13) extending digital data provided by the communication path when the digital data is compressed, and extending digital data read from the storage medium when digital data is compressed.

20. An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing digital data (see, for example, the output line from communications 51 in FIGS. 1 and 2);

a storage medium storing digital data (see, for example, medium 52 in FIG. 1, and disk 58 and/or CD drive 52 in FIG. 2);

a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, information conversion section 56 in FIG. 1, and elements 66, 67a, 67b, 68a, 68b, 70 and 71 in FIG. 2);

a decoder decoding encrypted digital data (see, for example, software management means 55 in FIG. 1 and software management section 3 in FIG. 2);

a switch (see, for example, the various switch configurations provided by input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2) having

a first switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter as a one-way connection without passing through the decoder so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a second switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter and the decoder as a one-way connection so that the encrypted digital data is decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data is converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data,

a third switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection without passing through the decoder so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

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a fourth switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter and the decoder as a one-way connection so that the encrypted digital data is decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data is converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data, and

a fifth switch configuration which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium;

an output device, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2); and

a software manager managing monetary charges according to usage of the encrypted digital data decoded by the decoder (see, for example, software management means 55 in FIG. 1 and software management section 3 and monetary charges table 8 in FIG. 2).

21. A switch (see, for example, the various switch positions provided by input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2) comprising:

a first switch position which connects digital data provided by a communication path to a converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a second switch position which connects digital data read from a storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

a third switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium;

a fourth switch position which connects the digital data read from the storage medium to a software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the read digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

a fifth switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and

then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;

wherein an output device, connected to the converter, outputs the at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2).

22. An apparatus comprising:

first means for connecting digital data provided by a communication path to a converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

second means for connecting digital data read from a storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

third means for connecting the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium;

fourth means for connecting the digital data read from the storage medium to a software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the read digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;

fifth means for connecting the digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data

(see, for example, the various switch positions provided by input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2, which together provide the recited, first, second, third, fourth and fifth means); and

outputting means, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2).

23. An apparatus comprising:

digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via a communication medium (see, for example, switchover switch 57 in FIG. 2 and the disclosure on page 7, lines 14-27, of the specification);

drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a storage medium (see, for example, device 59 and device 60 in FIG. 2);

information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital information receiving means and digital information read by said drive means into at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, information conversion section 56 in FIG. 1, and elements 66, 67a, 67b, 68a, 68b, 70 and 71 in FIG. 2);

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for providing the decoded software data to the information converting means to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, and for managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data (see, for example, software management means 55 in FIG. 1 and software management section 3 and monetary charges table 8 in FIG. 2);

switch means for switching a connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, said drive means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said software management means, and said drive means and said software management means (see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2);

selecting means for selecting one of said digital information received by said digital information receiving means and said digital information read by said drive means and inputting the selected digital information to said information converting means to obtain at least one of visible and audible data based on the selected digital information, which is received from different types of digital information sources (see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2); and

outputting means, connected to said information converting means, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2).

24. An apparatus comprising:

a communication medium providing external digital information in one direction (see, for example, communications 51 in FIGS. 1 and 2);

digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via the communication medium (see, for example, switchover switch 57 in FIG. 2 and the disclosure on page 7, lines 14-27, of the specification);

drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a storage medium (see, for example, device 59 and device 60 in FIG. 2);

information converting means for converting digital information into at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, information conversion section 56 in FIG. 1, and elements 66, 67a, 67b, 68a, 68b, 70 and 71 in FIG. 2);

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and providing the decoded software data as digital information to the information converting means, and for managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data (see, for example, software management means 55 in FIG. 1 and software management section 3 and monetary charges table 8 in FIG. 2);

switch means for switching a connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means so that the information converting means converts the digital information received by the digital information receiving means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, said drive means and said information converting means so that said information converting means converts the digital information read by the drive means, said digital information receiving means and said software management means so that the software management means decodes software data in the digital information received by the digital information receiving means, and said drive means and said software management means so that the software management means decodes software data in the digital information read by the drive means (see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2); and

outputting means, connected to said information converting means, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2).

25. The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said software management means comprises:

deciphering means (see, for example, decoding means 7 in FIG. 1, and DES 7 in FIG. 2)

for deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiving means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting, and

for deciphering digital information read by said drive means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting.

26. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said software management means further comprises:

billing managing means (see, for example, management means 3 in FIG. 1, and software management section 3 and monetary charges table 8 in FIG. 2)

for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said digital information receiving means, and

for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive means.

27. The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said information converting means comprises:

extension means (see, for example, extension sections 67a, 67b in FIG. 2, and page 16, lines 2-13)

for extending digital information received by said digital information receiving means when said digital information is compressed, and

for extending said digital information read by said drive means when said digital information is compressed.

28. An apparatus comprising:

a communication medium providing external digital information in one direction (see, for example, communications 51 in FIGS. 1 and 2);

a digital information receiver receiving digital information provided via the communication medium (see, for example, switchover switch 57 in FIG. 2 and the disclosure on page 7, lines 14-27, of the specification);

a drive device reading digital information from, and writing information to, a storage medium (See, for example, device 59 and device 60 in FIG. 2);

a software manager decoding encrypted software data, and managing monetary charges

according to usage of the decoded software data (see, for example, software management means 55 in FIG. 1 and software management section 3 and monetary charges table 8 in FIG. 2);

a converter converting digital information received by said digital information receiver, digital information read by said drive device, and software data decoded by the software manager, into at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, information conversion section 56 in FIG. 1, and elements 66, 67a, 67b, 68a, 68b, 70 and 71 in FIG. 2);

a switch switching a connection between said digital information receiver and said converter, between said digital information receiver and said software manager, between said drive device and said software manager, between said digital information receiver and said drive device, and between said drive device and said converter (see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2); and

an output device, connected to said converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2).

29. The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said software manager comprises:

a deciphering device (see, for example, decoding means 7 in FIG. 1, and DES 7 in FIG. 2)

deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiver when the digital information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said converter, and

deciphering digital information read by said drive device when the digital information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said converter.

30. The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said software manager further comprises:

a billing manager (see, for example, management means 3 in FIG. 1, and software management section 3 and monetary charges table 8 in FIG. 2)

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said digital information receiver, and

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive device.

31. The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said converter comprises:

an extender (see, for example, extension sections 67a, 67b in FIG. 2, and page 16, lines 2-13)

extending digital information received by said digital information receiver when said digital information is compressed, and

extending said digital information read by said drive device when said digital information is compressed.

32. An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing external digital data in one direction (see, for example, communications 51 in FIGS. 1 and 2);

a storage medium storing digital data (see, for example, medium 52 in FIG. 1 and disk 58 and drive 52 in FIG. 2);

a software manager decoding encrypted software data and managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data (see, for example, software management means 55 in FIG. 1 and software management section 3 and monetary charges table 8 in FIG. 2);

a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, information conversion section 56 in FIG. 1, and elements 66, 67a, 67b, 68a, 68b, 70 and 71 in FIG. 2);

a switch (see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2, and the various switch positions provided by these devices) having

a first switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the converter, the converter converting the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a second switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to the converter, the converter converting the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data,

a third switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium, the digital data provided via the communication path being stored in the storage medium,

a fourth switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager so that the software manager decodes encrypted software data in digital data provided by the communication path and provides the decoded software data to the converter so that the converter converts the decoded software data into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data, and

a fifth switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to the software manager so that the software manager decodes encrypted software data in digital data read from the storage medium and provides the decoded software data to the converter so that the converter converts the decoded software data into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

an output device, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2).

33. The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the software manager comprises:

a deciphering device (see, for example, decoding means 7 in FIG. 1, and DES 7 in FIG. 2) which,

when the switch is in the first switch position and the digital data provided by the communication path is ciphered, deciphers the digital data before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data, and,

when the switch is in the second position and the digital data read from the storage medium is ciphered, deciphers the digital data read from the storage medium before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data.

34. The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the software manager comprises:

a billing manager (see, for example, management means 3 in FIG. 1, and software management section 3 and monetary charges table 8 in FIG. 2) managing billing based on a utilization of digital data provided by the communication path, and managing billing based on a utilization of digital data read from the storage medium.

35. The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the converter comprises:

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an extender (see, for example, extension sections 67a, 67b in FIG. 2, and page 16, lines 2-13) extending digital data provided by the communication path when the digital data is compressed, and extending digital data read from the storage medium when digital data is compressed.

36. An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing external digital data in one direction (see, for example, communications 51 in FIGS. 1 and 2);

a storage medium storing digital data (see, for example, medium 52 in FIG. 1 and disk 58 and drive 52 in FIG. 2);

a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, information conversion section 56 in FIG. 1, and elements 66, 67a, 67b, 68a, 68b, 70 and 71 in FIG. 2);

a decoder decoding encrypted digital data (see, for example, decoding means 7 in FIG. 1, and DES 7 in FIG. 2);

a software manager managing monetary charges according to usage of digital data decoded by the decoder (see, for example, software management means 55 in FIG. 1 and software management section 3 and monetary charges table 8 in FIG. 2);

a switch (see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2, and the various switch configurations provided by these devices) having

a first switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter without passing through the decoder, the converter converting the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a second switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter and the decoder, the encrypted digital data being decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data being converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data,

a third switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter without passing through the decoder, the converter converting the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a fourth switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter and the decoder, the encrypted digital data being decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data being converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data, and

a fifth switch configuration which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium, the digital data provided via the communication path being stored in the storage medium; and

an output device, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2).

37. A switch (see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2, and the various switch positions provided by these devices) comprising:

a first switch position which connects external digital data provided by a communication path in one direction to a converter that converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a second switch position which connects digital data read from a storage medium to the converter, the converter converting the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

a third switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium, the digital data provided via the communication path being stored in the storage medium;

a fourth switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to a software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the read digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

a fifth switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;

wherein an output device, connected to the converter, outputs the at least one of visible

and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2).

38. An apparatus comprising:

first means for connecting external digital data provided by a communication path in one direction to a converter that converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

second means for connecting digital data read from a storage medium to the converter, the converter converting the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

third means for connecting the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium, the digital data provided via the communication path being stored in the storage medium;

fourth means for connecting digital data read from the storage medium to a software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the read digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;

fifth means for connecting the digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data

(see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2, which together provide the recited first, second, third, fourth and fifth means); and

outputting means, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2).

39. An apparatus comprising:

a communication medium providing external digital information in one direction (see, for example, communications 51 in FIGS. 1 and 2);

digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via the communication medium (see, for example, switchover switch 57 in FIG. 2 and the disclosure on

page 7, lines 14-27, of the specification);

drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a storage medium (see, for example, device 59 and device 60 in FIG. 2);

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data (see, for example, software management means 55 in FIG. 1 and software management section 3 and monetary charges table 8 in FIG. 2);

information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital information receiving means, digital information read by said drive means, and software data decoded by said software management means, into at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, information conversion section 56 in FIG. 1, and elements 66, 67a, 67b, 68a, 68b, 70 and 71 in FIG. 2);

switch means for switching a connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, said digital information receiving means and said software management means, said drive means and said software management means, and said drive means and said information converting means (see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2);

selecting means for selecting one of said digital information received by said digital information receiving means and said digital information read by said drive means and inputting the selected digital information to said information converting means to obtain at least one of visible and audible data based on the selected digital information, which is received from different types of digital information sources (see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2); and

outputting means, connected to said information converting means, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data (see, for example, NTSC OUT from element 68a, AUDIO OUT from element 68b and PC from element 71 in FIG. 2).

40. A switch (see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2, and the various switch positions provided by these devices) comprising:

a first switch position which connects digital data provided by a communication path to a converter so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a second switch position which connects digital data read from a storage medium to the converter so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

a third switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium so that the digital data provided by the communication path is stored in the storage medium;

a fourth switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to a software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the read digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

a fifth switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data.

41. An apparatus comprising:

means for connecting digital data provided by a communication path to a converter so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

means for connecting digital data read from a storage medium to the converter so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

means for connecting digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium so that the digital data provided by the communication path is stored in the storage medium;

means for connecting digital data read from the storage medium to a software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the read digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

means for connecting digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and

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audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data

(see, for example, input switchover means 53 and output switchover means 54 in FIG. 1, and switchover switches 57, 61, 64 and 65 in FIG. 2, which together provide each of the above described means for connecting).

Various portions of the application are described above as providing support for various claimed recitations. However, the above description is not intended to be limiting in any way as to where support can be found in the specification for the claimed recitations. Instead, other portions of the specification, in addition to or instead of those portions described above, may provide support for a respective claim recitation.

Moreover, the interpretation of the claims is not intended to be limited by the portions of the application described above. Instead, the claims should be interpreted based on well-known claim interpretation principles.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that appropriate support in the application has been shown for the new claims.

V.   IDS

An IDS was filed concurrently herewith.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the IDS.

VI.   CONCLUSION

If view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.
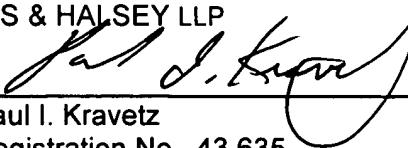
If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _September 15, 2006_   By: _____

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